

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 21, 2008 maintains that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:

Species I: Directed to a method of disassembling a preloaded and interlocked assembly that comprises at least one element being deformed and drawn to claims 15-16, 20-23, 32-34, 38-40, and 43-50.

Species II: Directed to a method of disassembling a preloaded and interlocked assembly and drawn to claims 42 and 51.

Election

Applicant elects with traverse, Species I, claims 15-16, 20-23, 32-34, 38-40, and 43-50. Applicant traverses the election of the claims on the grounds that search and examination of both of the species would not prove unduly burdensome.

Although Applicant does not believe that it would prove unduly burdensome to search and examine the species together, Applicant nevertheless has withdrawn claims 42 and 51.

Applicant asserts that claims 15-16, 20-23, 32-34, 38-40, and 43-50 are in condition for immediate allowance. The Office Action provides that the “species are not obvious variants of each other.” See Office Action, page 2. Applicant agrees with the Examiner that the methods claimed within claims 15-16, 20-23, 32-34, 38-40, and 43-50 are not obvious over Species II, and further asserts that claims 15-16, 20-23, 32-34, 38-40, and 43-50 are not obvious over the prior art as well. Applicant asserts that the elected claims each recite a method comprising an assembly where at least one element is deformed. Such a limitation, recognized as non-obvious over Species II, is also non-obvious over the prior art based on the current record.

Thus, Applicant requests that claims 15-16, 20-23, 32-34, 38-40, and 43-50 be allowed.

CONCLUSION

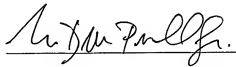
With the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that all objections and/or rejections have been obviated. Thus, each of the claims remaining in the application is in condition for immediate allowance. A passage of the instant invention to allowance is earnestly solicited.

Applicants believe that no additional fee, is necessary; however, should a fee be deemed to be necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees required by this action or any future action to Deposit Account No. 16-1435.

Should the Examiner have any questions relating to the instant application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (336) 607-7347 to discuss any issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/22/08 (Monday)



N. Dean Powell Jr. (Reg. No. 58,909)

KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP
1001 West Fourth Street
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101-2400
Phone: (336) 607-7300
Facsimile: (336) 607-7500